The Term 4 newsletter already! How quickly the year has gone so far! The children have already settled back to work eagerly, and have enjoyed catching up with their friends and settling into familiar routines.

This promises to be a very busy term. As well as our classroom activities and a wonderful excursion, there will be whole-school events such as Oktoberfest on 30th October and the Carols Night on 11th December.

Our Integrated Topic this term is **DISCOVER THE WORLD OF MINIBEASTS!** Level 2 classes will be exploring this world and finding out about these interesting creatures. The highlight for this unit will be an **excursion** to the Melbourne Museum to explore the amazing world of spiders and insects at the ‘Bugs Alive’ exhibition. The children will also visit other sections of the Museum and enjoy ‘Bugs! in 3D’ at the IMAX theatre.

As we are such a large level, this excursion will be held over two days, Thursday 28th and Friday 29th November, with 4 grades going on each of those days. This will be a whole-day outing leaving at 9am, and will be a lot of fun, as well as being very educational. Details, including cost, will be sent home soon, and you will receive a reminder regarding lunches, etc just before the excursion day.

October is a very busy time in the classrooms with **assessment** being carried out throughout the month, often on an individual basis. Please keep this in mind when planning holidays or family outings, and let your child’s teacher know if he/she will be absent.

**Tips to encourage independence in your children:**

- Remember to drop children off outside and let them be responsible for bringing their own bags into school when the bell rings.

- Encourage resilience by remaining positive when discussing school issues and strategies that will help them to approach difficult social issues with confidence.
REMINDERS:

Some of the children are forgetting to bring their readers to school every day. Please sign the Reading Record book when your child has read to you, and remind your child to put them back in their schoolbags when they have read them.

The children are being encouraged at school to re-read to improve their reading fluency, and to discuss what they’ve read to check comprehension. This needs to be continued when they are reading at home in order to maintain the improvement they’re all demonstrating.

Spelling books are sometimes neglected during this busy term. Children need to be working on at least some of their words each day in a variety of ways – not just writing them out, but using magnetic letters, magnadoodles or playdough, or finding letters and words in newspapers and magazines, using the home computer, etc.

These activities serve to increase familiarity with the letter/sound patterns being focussed upon. Most children need to have some practice using some type of manipulative materials so that words can be broken into parts and put together again.

The Spelling books need to come back to school as soon as the list has been copied to keep at home, so that they are here ready for testing.

It’s very important that these routines are kept up during this final term in order to consolidate this year’s learning before progressing to the next grade.

No Hats No Play!

Remember that our Sunsmart policy was re-activated on the first day of Spring. It is compulsory for all of the children to wear hats in the playground. Please check that all hats are clearly labelled and that children remember to wear them to and from school each day.

We encourage the children to drink lots of water in the hotter weather. For this reason, they need to have a labelled drink bottle to bring into the classroom for easy access.

This is probably a good time to check labels on windcheaters and bomber jackets too. As the weather warms up, these are more likely to be left somewhere and they can quickly be returned to the owner if they are labelled clearly.

THANK YOU.

Again, a big thank you to the band of classroom helpers who help us with Reading and with Language groups, and in particular to our Class Parent Reps. We really appreciate your help.

Please remember that your child’s teacher is always available by appointment, if you have any concerns, or any matters to be discussed.

We’re looking forward to a productive and very busy Term 4.

Level 1 and Level 2 teachers.
Marguerite Laing, Carol Wilson, Marita Horvath, Liz McDonald, Natasha Hale, Margaret Goulding, Alex Box, Carmel Brown